

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

National
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Center

Top Secret RUFF

25 JULY 1979

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IMAGERY INFORMATION REPORT

UNIDENTIFIED PRESSURE HULL SECTIONS AT SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD 402, USSR (S)

(TSR) On [] at least one and possibly three submarine pressure hull sections were under the lattice framework behind construction hall 3 at Severodvinsk Shipyard 402, USSR (Figure 1). One hull section was clearly visible, turned on its end, and had a ribbed framework on top. This hull section, [] in diameter and [] long, was first observed on [] however, image quality precluded its positive identification. While mensuration accuracy (plus or minus []) does not preclude the possibility that this hull section may be intended for a D-III-class nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) hull, its location under the lattice framework between construction hall 3 and fabrication building 2 suggests that it is intended for the large SSBN believed to be under construction in hall 3.

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(TSR) A possible hull section was under an octagon-shaped cover which had a rectangular shed in its center (Figure 1). The octagon-shaped cover was [] in width and had a height of [] above the rails of the staging platform rails. Although the purpose of the shed is unknown, the size and height of this cover above the staging platform suggest that it may be used to cover a pressure hull section similar to the [] meter-diameter by [] long pressure hull section seen on [] (Figure 2). The [] long pressure hull section was believed to be intended for the large SSBN under construction in hall 3. The identification of this cover in the staging area further substantiates this belief.

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(TSR) An additional cover was partially observed in the shadows of fabrication building 1. This cover had a length of [] and a height of [] above the rails of the staging platform and is possibly being used to conceal a submarine pressure hull section.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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